and 41,500 tonnes to the Indian Foundry Association). The quantities lifted so far are 39,924 tonnes (8,464 tonnes by the WBSIC and 31,460 tonnes by the Indian Foundry Association). Requirements of industries other than small scale units are met directly by the main producers in accordance with their distribution guidelines.

(d) The allocation of pig iron made for small scale industries in West Bengal during the current year is 46.3% higher than the last year. DCI&S has requested WBSIC to respond quickly to offers made by the main producers. He has also advised the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant and Indian Iron and Steel Company to supply directly to the consumers the quantity against lapsed offers.

There is an overall shortage of pig iron in the country. As against the total estimated demand of 21 lakh tonnes in 1992-93, the total expected production is 17.92 lakh tonnes. To enable pig iron user industries to meet their full requirements, pig iron has been made freely importable. Import duty on pig iron has also been reduced from 55% to 35% with effect from 16th January, 1992. Government have also taken steps to encourage production of pig iron in the private sector.

Abolition of Capitation Fee in Engineering Colleges

*72. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3362 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 1992 and state :

(a) whether Government are aware that despite ban on charging capitation fee in Engineering and Medical Colleges, this is being collected in the name of donations and the seats are allotted in exchange of monetary consideration;

(b) whether any suitable device to check up this malpractice has since been suggested recently or was suggested before;

(c) whether admission on merit through entrance examination would be worked out to eliminate possible lacunae in the system; and

(d) whether Government propose to issue any guidelines in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) According to the information furnished by AICTE, no case of charging of capitation fee by the engineering colleges approved by it has come to notice.

(b) While giving approval for setting up of engineering colleges or starting a new course, AICTE lays down that the college or its management will not charge capitation fee in any form whatsoever. In order to ensure strict compliance, these conditions are now registered.

(c) and (d) Guidelines to be followed for admission to engineering colleges have been notified by the AICTE. These guidelines provide for admissions based on entrance examination also.

Irrigation Potential in the Country

*73. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the estimated gap between country's total irrigation potential and its actual utilization; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to bridge the gap ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) At the end of 1991-92, the gap between Country's Irrigation Potential created and its actual utilization has been estimated at about 8.1 million hectares.

(b) To reduce this gap, the Government proposes to review and make Command Area Development Programme more effective and to bring large minor irrigation schemes also under its purview. Improvement of old irrigation systems through modernisation is also envisaged.